

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN MEDIA REACTIONS TO CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S U.S.
VISIT

SUMMARY: AUSTRIAN MEDIA COVERAGE KREISKY VISIT TO THE U.S.
WAS HEAVY AND POSITIVE, WITH CHANCELLOR QUOTED AS BEING
ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED WITH SERIOUSNESS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS. ONLY DISCORDANT NOTE WAS REPORT
THAT U.S. MEDIA IGNORED AUSTRIAN BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO
AMERICA.

1. CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY'S UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED
STATES RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN AUSTRIA'S ELECTRONIC AND
PRESS MEDIA. FOUR OF THE SIX VIENNA DAILIES CARRIED LONG
SPECIAL REPORTS BY PRESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS OF REPORTERS
ACCOMPANYING THE CHANCELLOR.

2. THE ORGAN OF THE RULING SOCIALIST PARTY, ARBEITER ZEITUNG,
ON MARCH 16 HEADLINED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT TO
KREISKY TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE IS SCARCELY ANY OTHER
EUROPEAN COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS SUCH
CORDIAL RELATIONS AS WITH AUSTRIA. THE SAME PAPER AND
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OTHERS QUOTED THE CHANCELLOR AS HAVING INVITED THE PRESIDENT
TO AUSTRIA FOR BOTH AN OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL
VISIT. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT HUBERT
FEICHTLBAUER OF INDEPENDENT MASS-CIRCULATION "KURIER"
HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT IS UNLIKELY TO VISIT AUSTRIA IN
THE NEAR FUTURE SINCE HE DOES NOT WANT TO FOLLOW THE
PRECEDENT OF PRESIDENT NIXON AND FORD IN SALZBURG.

3. UNDER A HEADLINE CLAIMING THAT THE U.S. MEDIA IGNORED KREISKY, FEICHTLBAUER WROTE IN THE C"KURIER" OF MARCH 17 THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S U.S. VISIT WAS FOR AUSTRIAN HOME CONSUMPTION AND THAT PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING HIM WITH THE PRESIDENT ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR CAMPAIGN PURPOSES IN AUSTRIA. IN FEICHTLBAUER'S OPINION, KREISKY'S COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT WAS ARRANGED BY DR. BRZEZINSKI AND AUSTRIA'S UN AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH, THE LATTER WISHING TO COUNTER THE IMPRESSION MADE BY THE FACT THAT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ALOSI MOCK OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY HAS BEEN THE ONLY AUSTRIAN POLITICIAN WHO HAD MET THE PRESIDENT.

4. EDITORIALY, THE "KURIER" OF MARCH 17 CRITICIZED KREISKY FOR HAVING DELCARED IN WASHINGTON ON MARCH 15 THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF TACIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND ISRAEL TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWS EMIGRATING. REPORTING THAT THIS WAS IMMEDIATELY DENIED BY THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, THE PAPER MAINTAINED THAT AN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING SUCH AN ACTION WOULD HARDLY SURVIVE POLITICALLY. THE "KURIER" ADDED: " AMERICA IS CERTAINLY SENSITIVE IN MATTERS OF MID-EAST POLICY. ONE EASILY IS MISUNDERSTOOD HERE. BUT A QUESTION NEVERTHELESS REMAINS UNANSWERED: WHY DOES THE OLD FOX GET CAUGHT IN THE OLD TRAP? NO MATTER WHETHER HE IS RIGHT OR WRONG, WHY DOES KREISKY TALK ABOUT POLITICALLY DELICATE AFFAIRS IN A POLITICALLY DELICATE SURROUNDING?"

5. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARLENE MANTHEY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INDEPENDENT "DIE PRESSE", NO DETAILS WERE DISCLOSED CONCERNING KREISKY'S TALKS WITH DR. BRZEZUNSKI AND SECRETARY VANCE, BUT BOTH PRESUMABLY ASKED FOR THE CHANCELLOR'S OPINION ABOUT VARIOUS ISSUES. MISS MANTHEY ALSO WROTE:" "KREISKY HAS REASON TO FEEL SATISFIED WITH THE RECEPTION HE WAS GIVEN IN WASHINGTON". ALSO "ARBEITER ZEITUNG" STRESSED THE "VERY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE" OF THE CARTER-KREISKY MEETING AND QUOTED THE CHANCELLOR AS HAVING SAID AFTERWARDS: "THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY NICE, EMANATING MUCH HUMAN WARMTH. HE IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY ENGAGING MAN".

6. THE "KURIER" OF MARCH 16 SAID THAT KREISKY SURPRISED THE READERS OF THE "NEW YORK TIMES" WITH HIS STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS VERY IMPRESSIVE, BUT MIGHT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THWART QUIETER EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD. "DIE PRESSE" REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT IS IS ESPECIALLY THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HAS IMPRESSED THE CHANCELLOR. "THIS

IS NO PURE CHANCE, BUT A STANCE TO WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN A LOT OF THOUGHT," DIE PRESSE'S MARLENE MANTHEY QUOTED KREISKY AS SAYING. ACCORDING TO THE SAME CORRESPONDENT, THE CHANCELLOR TOLD REPORTERS THAT FOLLOWING ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA." PRESIDENT CARTER ASKED ME A VERY STRAIGHT QUESTION. IT IS A MACABRE TOPIC. BUT I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO GET NERVOUS WHEN THEY THINK ABOUT THIS PROBLEM. YUGOSLAVIA HAS A FIRM STRUCTURE AS A STATE AND WOULD WEATHER SUCH A CIRSIS".

7 SEVERAL PAPERS AND THE AUSTRIA PRESS AGENCY (APA) CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WHEN THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED KREISKY FOR A 15-MINUTE TALK, PEOPLE'S PARTY FLOOR LEADER STEPHAN KOREN AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRO-AMERICAN SOCIETY, MANFRED MAUTNER MARKHOF, HAD TO KEEP OUT. WITH AN UNDERTONE OF MILD CRITICISM, THIS WAS ALSO REPORTED BY ORF (AUSTRIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION) CORRESPONDENT RUDOLF STOIBER. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPLANATION REPORTEDLY GIVEN - THE WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT WANT TO SET A PRECEDENT IN THIS RESPECT - WAS DULY NOTED BY STOIBER AND THE PRESS.

8. ACCORDING TO MARLENE MANTHEY'S REPORTS IN "DIE PRESSE" WHITE HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES GLADLY NOTICED THE CONCENSUS BETWEEN WASHINGTON'S AND KREISKY'S POLITICAL VIEWS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE WEST MUST INSIST DESPITE DETENTE. INDEPENDENT MASS-CIRCULATION "KRONEN ZEITUNG" REMARKED THAT KREISKY EXPLICITLY EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S UNCONVENTIONAL REBUKES OF THE SOVIET UNION IN MATTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY SAYING:" I THINK THAT THE AMERICAN POLICY IS RIGHT".

9. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "U.S. VICE PRESIDENT THANKS AUSTRIA," THE "KRONEN ZEITUNG" OF MARCH 17 REPORTED THAT MR. MONDALE THANKED THE CHANCELLOR FOR THE MONEY RAISED IN AUSTRIA TO SET UP CHAIRS IN AUSTRIAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND AT STANFORD. COVERING KREISKY'S MINNEAPOLIS SPEECH, "ARBEITER ZEITUNG" EMPHASIZED HIS PRAISE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR HAVING ACCOMPLISHED THE "GREAT BREAKTHROUGH" IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE IN THE LAST THIRTY YEARS. A FRON PAGE HEADLINE IN "DIE PRESSE" READ, "KREISKY THANKS ALL AMERICANS IN MINNEAPOLIS". SEMI-OFFICIAL "WIENER ZEITUNG" OF MARCH 17 RAN A TOP HEADLINE, "A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION AND OF GRATITUDE TO THE U.S. PEOPLE".

10. COMMUNIST "VOLKSSTIMME" HAS BEEN PLAYING DOWN KREISKY'S TRIP, ON MARCH 16, IT CARRIED FIFTEEN LINES MENTIONING THE CHANCELLOR'S TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND DR. BRZEZINSKI, AND ON MARCH 17 NOTHING AT

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TAGS: OVIP, AU, US, (KREISKY, BRUNO)
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vdkgvkey: odbcr//SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/14a15cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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